



ADVANCING INDEPENDENCE FOR ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES

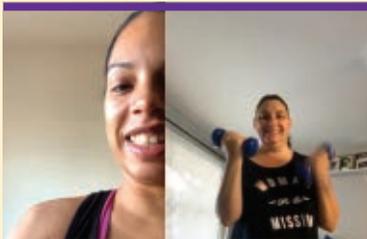


2020
-
2021
ANNUAL
REPORT

Providing Support Through a New Lens



JESPY staff engaged clients in **online programming activities**, which included Trivia, Drawing, Chess, Conflict Resolution, Meditation, and more, throughout the pandemic.



Continuing to put **health and fitness** first, one-to-one virtual training sessions were made available to clients. Stretching, cardio, and strength training were popular activities.



Once back on site, **JESPY Day Program** clients went on a number of Nature Walks through South Orange to explore landmark parks, locations and historic buildings.



Interesting and informational sessions - which included Public Speaking, Creative Writing, Sports History, and Music Appreciation - held clients' interest when they returned to in-person JESPY programming.

A Message to you from **Ahadi Bugg-Levine** and **Audrey Winkler**



Dear Friends,

This year's Annual Report reaffirms what JESPY House has known for over 40 years. JESPY is home.

For clients who left South Orange during the global pandemic, their JESPY home became virtual. For those who remained, their JESPY home became their pod. For all of our clients, JESPY provided the community-based supports, clinical & behavioral services, fitness & athletics, engagement activities, and work readiness that they needed to navigate a pandemic and remain optimistic for the future.

Last year, JESPY applauded our staff for being able to transition quickly to respond to shutdowns in Winter 2020. The Summer brought even more challenges. We shifted our thinking that COVID brought a short-term break from our normal lives to recognizing that we lived in a 'new normal.' This realization brought mental health anguish to many of us, including our clients.

JESPY staff again responded quickly and effectively. They created new and innovative programming and events, provided necessary services, and showed boundless enthusiasm and empathy to support our clients. They inspired us daily.

Clients continued to demonstrate their commitment to achieving and maintaining their independence goals during these difficult days. They worked hard, supported one another, and found new ways to engage with our community even when masked and socially distant.

Each day, our clients reaffirmed that independence is a right not a privilege.

Of course, JESPY has stayed strong because many donors supported us during this global pandemic. You were there for us when we needed you. Thank you for continuing to be part of our JESPY family. We could not do all that you see in this Annual Report without you.

Now, our doors are open. Clients have returned to their JESPY home. Even though COVID restrictions are still in place, life is beginning to feel like life again. Light shines brightly at the end of the tunnel.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ahadi Bugg-Levine, *President*
JESPY House Board of Trustees

Audrey Winkler, *Executive Director*
JESPY House

JESPY House Board of Trustees 2020/2021

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THRIVING DURING OUR 'NEW NORMAL'



JESPY staff used creative thinking and out-of-the-box techniques to provide services to adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities.



Digital Programming

Starting in the spring of 2020, JESPY began to successfully deliver client programming in unique and exciting ways. Maximizing the use of technology, JESPY staff conducted interactive sessions that provided much-needed connections with clients during a time that called for meaningful engagement and programming.

Using social media apps and websites, more than 100 online sessions were offered weekly through the Day Habilitation, Social Wellness & Expressive Arts, Athletics and Fitness departments.

Popular sessions included Cooking, Meditation, Trivia, Indoor Gardening, Yoga, Book Clubs, and Drawing. Clients also maintained their health by participating in online fitness classes that involved low-impact cardio and strength training.

ON THE ROAD

Throughout the past fiscal year, clients missed the in-person interaction and so did we! To provide some much-needed connections, staff hit the road and began in-person visits – outdoors and socially distanced of course!



Returning to JESPY

After more than a year of receiving online programming and support services while in their apartments, homes, and JESPY residences, clients were ecstatic to return to in-person programming in May of 2021 in a limited capacity.



SUPPORTING GROWTH & INDEPENDENCE

JESPY provides services that promote individual choice, growth throughout adulthood, and the ability to thrive while working and living with others.

Residential & Community-Based Supports

Understanding the importance of case management and daily living skills services, the staff in JESPY's Residential & Community-Based Supports department continued to successfully support community clients who lived in supervised apartments, shared housing, or lived independently.

Using a variety of online platforms, staff also connected with clients through phone calls, texting and emails. Clients were supported with the maintenance of their daily schedules, money management and budgets, transportation, and medical appointments.



Clients' housing vouchers and Social Security benefits were additionally maintained, with staff also arranging for food deliveries and for the local Stop and Shop supermarket to provide clients with early-hour shopping times.

Aiming for Accomplishments!

With encouragement from family members and staff while at home, a client who lost a fulfilling job during the pandemic took the initiative to begin an internship at a local supermarket. A hard worker, the client was eventually hired on a full time basis. Months later, the client continues to work, has returned to JESPY, and feels a great sense of accomplishment.



Clinical & Behavioral Health

During much of Fiscal Year 2020-21, JESPY's clinical services were delivered virtually. Comprised of licensed clinicians, the department's services included goal-directed therapeutic and behavioral health services, anger management, and crisis counseling and interventions for individuals and families.

JESPY clinicians were certified to deliver clinical telehealth services via platforms which provided JESPY with HIPAA approved access to our clients. Numerous virtual groups were added to the clinical calendar to support the enhanced client need during the pandemic.

The clinical department started its own Facebook page to provide additional encouragement, support, and a forum for connection. The department also worked with and trained three MSW (Master of Social Work) interns who became an integral part of the staff.

To allow for greater accessibility to clinical care, payment options now also include certain plans with Aetna, Cigna, Horizon, Humana, Medicare, Wellcare, United Healthcare, TriCare, and QualCare.

“When I have a problem that is formed, this helps me to solve my problems.”

— JESPY Client

Work Readiness & Employment Engagement (WREE)

WREE Employment Coaches worked in new ways to deliver an effective vocational program that provided job training, and volunteer and employment opportunities for JESPY clients.

Navigating employment challenges brought on by the pandemic, staff investigated resources and shared materials that enabled clients to maintain their job skills. WREE staff shared job leads, prepared marketing materials to increase employer engagement, and developed training materials for pre-vocational services.

Staff continued to meet in-person and virtually with clients who maintained their jobs throughout the pandemic, motivating and educating them on safety measures. Staff also assisted furloughed or unemployed clients in applying for unemployment benefits or searching for new jobs.



Working Toward Success!

Before Passion C. began her employment journey, she was coached by the WREE department in building her work skills, job expectations, and communicating with co-

workers. Well prepared, her job search was put on hold due to COVID. Recently, however, she was hired for a position at the Turtle Back Zoo. Passion is excited about learning new tasks, earning a salary, and achieving her goals.



Shared Housing

When JESPY ceased in-person services/programming due to COVID, the Shared Housing department continued to operate on site and provided in-person services at a JESPY residence for clients who were unable to reside outside of JESPY housing.

All JESPY residences moved to a 24/7 staffing model to provide the highest level of care. In June of 2020, we re-opened four of our shared houses. Staff were amazing in delivering safe, healthy and engaging programming during this challenging year.

As a result of the vigilance of staff to take care of their own health while away from JESPY and the requirement of clients to remain on strict quarantine, there were no cases of COVID in Shared Housing. For safety precautions, sanitizing stations were created - complete with thermometers, COVID questionnaire logs, cleaning supplies, PPE and masks.

Client & Staff Comradery

Once restrictions were lifted and with safety protocols in place, clients enjoyed organized trips to Turtle Back Zoo, Hoboken Waterfront, Morristown National Historical Park, and South Mountain Reservation. Staff also scheduled barbecues and dinner parties among JESPY houses. Clients participated, as well, in Community Mitzvah Month sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest NJ.



FOSTERING HEALTH & WELLNESS

Assisting clients as they strive to maintain an enhanced state of physical health and an increased sense of social and creative wellness.

Nursing & Client Care

To address the growing need to put strategic measures in place during the pandemic, JESPY nursing and administrative staff drafted and implemented a comprehensive COVID-19 manual which served as a guide for pandemic policies and procedures.

All on-site staff were required to take three hours of safety protocols training. The sessions emphasized protective practices, which included: social distancing; mask wearing; community safety; temperature checks, hand sanitizing and hand washing; and the disinfection of surfaces.



Alliances were developed with **Saint Barnabas Medical Center Community Health & Outreach Program, Excell Labs,** and **Diagnostic Labs** who provided weekly COVID-19 testing for clients and staff. **Newark Community Health Centers** provided doses of the Moderna vaccine; and the **Essex County Division of Community Action** administered doses of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

“I wanted to get the vaccine before I come back to JESPY so that I can be protected.”
— JESPY Client

Athletics & Fitness



JESPY was visited by Special Olympics of NJ staff who donated sports equipment and outdoor games to clients.

The Athletics & Fitness department introduced virtual activities including sports practices and group fitness. Educational sessions, such as the Nutrition Group and Athletics Chat & Chill, enabled clients to engage in discussions around sports history and challenges faced by athletes who participate in the sport.

Personalized, virtual one-on-one fitness sessions were very popular and continue

to be offered. Twenty-seven client athletes were invited to try out for Special Olympics Nationals competition which will take place in July 2022 in Orlando, FL. Twenty of those athletes tried out to compete in six different sports and are awaiting team announcements. The Games will bring together more than 5,000 athletes and coaches from across the country and the Caribbean.



Tico's Gym at the JESPY Clubhouse

'Tico's Gym at The JESPY Clubhouse', JESPY's new program space located in South Orange, honors the memory of Albert "Tico" Shikiar, the late husband of JESPY board member Suki Marsh Shikiar. The location hosts a fully-equipped gym, small group fitness workshops, Day Program activity and information sessions, one-to-one personal training sessions, nutrition counseling, lifestyle and wellness activities, and Special Olympics sports.

Day Habilitation

Upon ceasing in-person programming at the start of the pandemic, the Day Program staff brainstormed about how to best serve clients, taking into account their interests, ability levels, and access to technology.

Staff created at-home activities and began providing online groups each day of the week. Eighty weekly groups - which included *Good News Hour*, *Critical Thinking*, *Community Safety, Arts & Culture*, and *Journaling* - were conducted to help clients remain engaged while also keeping their minds and skills sharp.

Staff maintained weekly virtual meetings and daily emails, texts, and phone calls to ensure that programming remained close to clients' usual routine. Staff members also became well-versed in virtual and video networking platforms and used their knowledge to assist clients in using social media.

Riding toward Success

While at home during the pandemic, a client used her time to strengthen a relationship and create a healthy routine. Realizing that she functioned best with an active and predictable schedule, like she had at JESPY, she and her mom went hiking and snowshoeing every week through the winter. She stepped out of her comfort zone to experience new things. In the Spring, she started going on long bike rides with her mother. Their relationship has improved, and they decided to adopt a puppy, which they love!



Social Wellness & Expressive Arts (SWEA)

Social interaction, recreation, wellness, and creativity remained at the forefront of our programs. Because familiarity and consistency are important to clients' growth and development, the goal during the past fiscal year was to continue structured and engaging programming.

With guidance, clients with limited social media experience learned and embraced a new way of socializing and attending groups. Staff took great pride in connecting with clients who, because of social anxieties, infrequently participated in onsite groups. Those clients gradually engaged online with their peers and gained confidence.

The SWEA department created out-of-the-box ways to offer sessions and solicited client suggestions, which added to their sense of community. Some of the workshops included virtual scrabble, Zumba, knitting, music appreciation and pet therapy.



Client Engagement

The Pen Pal club wrote letters to a Kindergarten class in another state. The Social Action Group and Lion's Club members collected donations for hospice patients and donated winter accessories to the needy. Other groups collected donations for the homeless, and knitted and donated blankets to cancer patients and animal shelters.

Coming to JESPY

During FY 2020-21, JESPY continued to reach out to prospective clients regarding their inquiries. Interviews were held virtually, as well as in person when possible. As pandemic-related restrictions eased, orientations took place on a full-time basis.

DURING 2020-21 - JESPY:

Received **63** inquiries about JESPY services and programs.

Held **10** orientations for Residential, Shared Housing, and out-client programming.

Conducted **26** interviews with prospective Clients and their families.

DURING 2020-21 - JESPY ACCEPTED:

3 Residential Clients

6 WREE Clients

8 Day Program Clients

2 SWEA/Athletics Clients

1 Shared Housing Client

A VIEW OF 2021 FINANCIALS

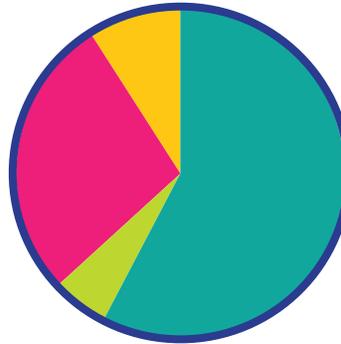
(JULY 1, 2020 – JUNE 30, 2021)

Fundraising Highlights

- Our November 2020 virtual fundraiser, *Keep on Believin' in JESPY*, raised \$283,000 to support JESPY client programs and services.
- Philanthropic gifts of all sizes helped JESPY through this challenging year, with most gifts made by individuals.
- Over 300 new donors supported JESPY.
- Grants from the Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest NJ, Knight Family Foundation, Hyde & Watson Foundation, Shikiar Family Foundation and others supported client programs and facility improvements.
- A new grant from the NJ Department of Human Services, Division of Disability Services Inclusive Healthy Communities (IHC) Grant Program will help JESPY plan strategies to support a healthy inclusive community for people with disabilities.

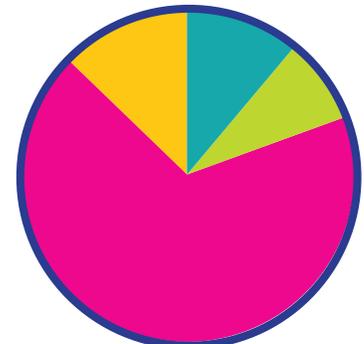
Financial Highlights

- Government Funding includes \$941,000 in funding for COVID-19
- Foundation Funding includes \$179,000 in emergency funding for COVID-19
- Expenses decreased by 7% from our last fiscal year - FY 2019-20



INCOME

● Government Funding	\$3,244,568
● Foundation Funding	\$371,945
● Earned Income	\$2,006,373
● Contributions	\$644,996
TOTAL	\$6,267,882



EXPENSES

● Administrative and Finance	\$715,360
● Building and Facility	\$502,886
● Program	\$4,284,524
● Capital	\$599,833
TOTAL	\$6,102,603

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

 The Development/Marketing/Communications Department enhanced JESPY's social media presence with the launch of a new LinkedIn page. The department also increased its use of Instagram and YouTube to share JESPY news, events, programming, and videos.

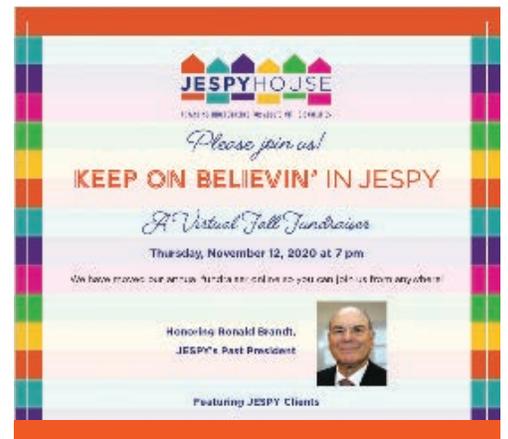
JESPY's Facebook page has grown to 2,263 followers and 2,173 page Likes, a 10% increase since FY 2019-20. Followers and supporters used Facebook to benefit JESPY with birthday and special occasion fundraisers.

JESPY continued to have a media presence with ads and articles that appeared on seven *Tapinto* hyper-local news sites, *NJ Jewish News*, *SOMA Living* magazine, *NJ Advance Media (The Star Ledger)*, and the *News Record*. Broadcast and digital news exposure included features on *NEWS 12 (Spotlight NJ and Viewer of the Day)* and *NBC's Today.com/AllDay*.

JESPY VIRTUAL FALL FUNDRAISER

A SUCCESS!

JESPY held its first-ever virtual Fall Fundraiser, *Keep on Believin' in JESPY* on November 12, 2020. The event featured JESPY clients and honored past JESPY Board President Ron Brandt. The fundraiser included a look back at our more than 42-year history; highlighted current and past programming; and featured a song performance by JESPY clients with dance clips showcasing JESPY family members, Board, clients, and supporters.



COMMUNITY RELATIONS

To be of service to those in the local community, JESPY began a new inclusion/community-related endeavor and embarked on several projects.

JESPY House was named a sub-grantee for an **Inclusive Healthy Communities Planning Grant** from the State of New Jersey Department of Human Service's Division of Disability Services. Awarded along with our partners, the New Jersey Association of Community Providers (NJACP) and SRS Strategic Associates, JESPY will work to make definitive change for adults with disabilities in South Orange.

To support local food pantries, JESPY continued to conduct **food drives** with MEND (Meeting Essential Needs with Dignity). In addition to 100 boxes of food items, JESPY received a donation of 36 cases of canned goods from Goya Foods and collected 42 cases of diapers.

The JESPY House Client Social Action Committee conducted its 4th Annual **Warmth Project**. As part of the project, client participants collected new mittens, scarves, gloves, and hats and strung the donated accessories to poles, signs, and benches around town.



AWARD SEASON

JESPY Direct Support Professional (DSP) Rabia El-Hamyani was awarded a **2020 NJACP DSP Heroes Recognition Award** from the New Jersey Association of Community Providers for her hard work and determination.



Client Jody K. received a **2021 NJACP Stars Award**. A client for 38 years, the award was given to her for active participation at JESPY and achievements as an administrative assistant for 33 years at Prudential.



The Michael Och House, A Center for Aging at JESPY, received the **2021 Carl F. West Award** from NJ Advocates for Aging Well (NJAAW) for serving aging clients in innovative ways. Cathy Rowe, DrPH, NJAAW's new Executive Director, presented JESPY with the crystal award.



NJ APSE (Association of People Supporting Employment) awarded JESPY client David S. (center) with their **Supported Employee of the Year Award** for his willingness to learn new tasks.

IN MEMORIAM

The passing of two long-time and beloved clients was a great loss. Here, we commemorate their full lives and all that they meant to everyone at JESPY.



Cathy G.

A kind and caring person to all who knew her, Cathy loved to laugh and enjoy time with her friends. An avid crocheter, JESPY re-named our Fiber Arts Group *JESPY's Cathy G. Fiber Arts Group*. Rest in peace, Cathy.



Jonathan O.

A soft-spoken guy, Jon was an avid Yankees fan and participated in Special Olympics and JESPY team sports. He worked at the VA Hospital for over 18 years and was very proud of his long-term position. We miss you Jon!

A Huge Thank You to JESPY House

We are enormously grateful to all the individuals, businesses, foundations, and organizations who help to support JESPY House. YOU make it possible for us to provide our clients with programs and services which have an enormous impact on their lives. Thank you!

Below is a partial list of our donors reflecting gifts received in fiscal year 2020-2021 (July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021). Space does not permit us to include every gift received, but please know that each gift is greatly appreciated and truly matters!

\$100,000 +

Anonymous (2)

\$50,000 - \$99,999

Eugene & Stacey Davis
The Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest NJ

\$20,000 - \$49,999

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Charitable Fund
Saint Barnabas Medical Center

\$1,000 - \$2,499

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We have made every effort to ensure listing accuracy and apologize for any inadvertent errors or omissions.



Funding from **The Healthcare Foundation of NJ** allowed us to make needed accessibility improvements to Judi House, our main program building AND purchase a new fully accessible van.

SPECIAL THANKS

The Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest NJ provided ongoing support to help JESPY with COVID-related needs and expenses, and for the second year in a row paid tribute to JESPY's front line workers and clients with a car parade.

The Judi House Fund's resources allowed our clients to participate in numerous social wellness and expressive arts programs and activities virtually and funded supplies to enrich the experience.

JESPY clients received drawings and handmade **Valentine's Day cards** from **Kindergarten Pod teacher** Sara Garlick Lundberg and her daughter Elle, and members of **Girl Scout Troop 20407** in South Orange.

Several friends of JESPY kindly created and provided decorative **masks and face shields** for clients and staff.

Saint Barnabas Medical Center Community Health & Outreach Program and **Diagnostic Labs, Newark Community Health Centers,** and the **Essex County Division of Community Action** provided and administered doses of the COVID-19 vaccine.

“Since I’ve been back at JESPY, I’m looking forward to getting a job and having a career.”

— Jordan F.

“Getting to socialize more with my peers is one of the reasons I was excited to return to JESPY.”

— Todd G.

“In these unsettled times, it gives us great pleasure to tell you that your staff has performed above and beyond the call.”

— Michael and Vivian B., JESPY parents

“Thank you doesn’t express how much we appreciate all that you do to make things easier for clients.”

— Andrea W.

“Participating in the virtual groups while I was at home was great because it kept me busy and built my skills.”

— Chloe O.

“JESPY House has always been a lifeline for my sister.”

— Nancy F., JESPY family member



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