Annual Message

From Stephen P. Sandler & Mark D. Weiner

We are honored to present our 2015 Annual Report which through words and pictures highlights the tapestry of CJE SeniorLife.

Since our founding in 1971 by Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago, we have served more than 300,000 community members. This past year alone, we provided 23,000-plus clients, residents and family members with life enrichment, supportive resources, healthcare, research and education through more than 40 different programs.

A tapestry is defined as the weaving together of various elements to form a uniform and beautiful picture. CJE’s 720+ staff members, Board members, volunteers and community resources are the foundation of the tapestry, fulfilling our mission to promote independence throughout our continuum of care by being innovative, attuned to individual needs, customer service-oriented and trustworthy.

CJE’s tapestry is illustrated by the successful stories of older adults and their loved ones who have reached out to CJE for help through our multitude of residential and community-based programs. Here are just a few stories that staff have recently shared with us:

- CJE’s Your Eldercare Consultants providing compassionate guidance to a recently-widowed woman, helping her learn how to deal with practical issues like balancing a checkbook while grieving for her beloved husband of 50 years.
- Residents at Weinberg Community and Lieberman Center recapturing their love for creating art, showcasing their masterpieces throughout the buildings for all to appreciate.
- Individuals receiving home-delivered meals who call to say they are so appreciative of the “wellness check” or friendly visits that accompany the meal—often the only personal contact an isolated individual may receive during the day.
- Watching the relief and joy as an 85-year-old man regains the necessary strength and energy to return to his apartment after successfully completing short-term rehabilitation at Lieberman Center in Skokie.

Yet, for all that CJE has achieved in 2015, this past year has also been very challenging. We have needed to be proactive to address an ever-changing healthcare environment and the uncertainty of our state’s budget and funding. We commend our Board and Management Team for its continued efforts to balance our economic and service objectives while planning for the future.

We couldn’t do this critical, life-sustaining work without our many partners. We are most thankful for the enduring commitment of Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago. With its support, Jewish life and values in our community are truly enriched. We are also grateful for the many current and emerging relationships with hospitals, health and human service providers, other eldercare organizations and government agencies—locally, regionally and nationally. Our work is achieved through the trust and support of foundations, corporations, and devoted individual donors. We are thankful to all.

As we move into 2016, our Board, management, staff and volunteers are committed and energized to do the vital work that will meet the growing emotional, physical and informational needs of older adults in our community.

With much appreciation for your steadfast support,

Stephen P. Sandler
Board Chair

Mark D. Weiner
President & CEO
A Tapestry is Woven

Starting in April 2013, bit by bit, piece by piece, a tapestry composed of different and surprising materials was thoughtfully created at CJE’s Lieberman Center for Health and Rehabilitation. It was fashioned by residents, staff, family, volunteers and community members who wove, knotted, and embedded a collection of donated objects, ribbons, fabric, wires, and yarn to make something beautiful emerge out of disparate parts. Photographs of this ambitious collective endeavor grace the pages of this 2015 Annual Report, and the full tapestry installation is on permanent display at Lieberman Center.

Admirers are immediately drawn to the symbolism of this dynamic, brilliant, one-of-a-kind piece of art. It exudes a spirit of joy, intention and diligence, much like the individuals whose hands and vision shaped it. In a larger sense, CJE can also be compared to a complex tapestry with a powerful history that still continues to evolve since it was founded by Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago in 1971. Entwined within CJE’s tapestry are its programs and services, clients, staff, volunteers, community members, donors and funders—every strand or filament independent, yet each one adding to the whole, creating texture and strength.

This CJE tapestry reminds us that not much is accomplished in the world alone. Any work or effort on our part requires meaningful collaboration in order to fulfill our mission of enhancing the lives of older adults—as well as the people who love and care for them—in the Jewish and larger community.
The Flexible Fabric of Our Continuum of Care
Life Enrichment, Supportive Resources, Healthcare, Research and Education.

In its early days, CJE wove together community-based social service programs for at-risk older adults in Rogers Park. Yet, CJE’s intricate tapestry of programs and services has grown over the past 44 years to include 40-plus services ranging from counseling, home-delivered meals and transportation…to comforting residential options…to outcome-driven healthcare opportunities…and above all, dozens of life-affirming programs that promote healthy aging, independence, dignity and respect for all generations.

Recognizing Creativity:
New Programs, Services and Honors in 2015

CJE’s Center for Healthy Living’s Virtual Senior Center (VSC)* enriches, engages and stimulates older adults by making it easy to attend Internet-based classes, surf the web, and keep in touch with loved ones. Through the VSC, CJE can provide socialization opportunities for older adults who, because of physical, geographic or other limitations, would otherwise be unable to participate in family or community life. Off to a great start—49 members participated in 2015—the VSC is expanding throughout Chicagoland and signing on subscribers who can also purchase equipment and technical services. Members take classes on Chicago history, travel, kosher cooking, the Torah, exercise and the Lyric Opera, to name a few highly popular courses. This innovative program is the proud recipient of a generous 2015 Breakthrough Fund grant from the Jewish United Fund.

*In partnership between CJE and Selfhelp Community Services in New York.

CJE welcomed Holocaust Community Services (HCS) back to our organization in January 2015, after 12 years at Jewish Child and Family Services. An estimated 120,000 Holocaust survivors live in the United States today. Their average age is 80, three in five are women and approximately two-thirds live alone. The administrative transition to CJE’s HCS helps the 800-member Chicago Holocaust survivor community and their families continue to live independently with dignity by offering socialization opportunities and assistance with various reparations and compensation programs.
All patients discharged from Lieberman Center’s Haag Pavilion for Short-term Rehabilitation can benefit from the new Lieberman +30 Transitional Nursing Program. One of only a few of its kind in the area, this program is comprised of a home visit by a Transitional Care Nurse (TCN) within 72 hours of discharge, plus close monitoring for 30 days. Designed to help patients manage their successful transition from a hospital stay to home by providing education about their conditions, medications and coaching on follow-up care, the ultimate goal of Lieberman +30 is to improve healthcare outcomes and reduce hospital readmissions. Of those individuals followed by the TCN between January and July 2015, 89.2% successfully stayed home for the full 30 days post-discharge from Lieberman Center.

Lieberman Center adds Peritoneal Dialysis to its existing Hemodialysis Program. When performed on-site, all types of dialysis are smoother and less stressful, aiding in faster recovery than procedures performed at dialysis centers. Also, peritoneal dialysis is performed in the comfort of the patient’s own private suite.

Introducing our Clutter Control and Organization Service from Your Eldercare Consultants. With a focus on efficiency, CJE’s geriatric care management professionals “deploy” to homes throughout Chicagoland to help solve clutter-related issues. Armed with a keen understanding of the underlying causes of why seniors are prone to clutter, our team is on the cutting edge of knowledge about a burgeoning issue that has been increasingly recognized as a complex problem that threatens the health, safety and dignity of older adults.

Writers from Lieberman Center were loyal attendees every Monday afternoon of the “Write for You” writing group. They collaborated on a writing project and produced Lieberman Center’s first literary “zine” entitled Anti-Memoir: Perspectives from the Literary Shipyard. A proposal for an account of this project, “Anti-Memoir: Alternate Nursing Home Narratives Through ‘Zine Making,” was accepted for presentation at the LeadingAge of Illinois Conference. “Write for You” Group members were included on the panel, so along with staff members, they boarded a bus and traveled to the conference to discuss their experience and the zine-making process for dozens of art therapy professionals—a true first for CJE.

The Bernard Heerey Annex at Weinberg Community was formally dedicated. Community members, Board members, government officials and Heerey Foundation executors were on hand to inaugurate this specially designed space for the unique needs of persons with memory issues. We are now able to offer more residences and expanded Adult Day Services programming for persons with Alzheimer’s disease or related disorders.

Students from Chicagoland Jewish High School (CJHS) enjoy a truly unique partnership with Weinberg Community, called “In Step Together.” CJHS students visit Weinberg and participate in a variety of intergenerational activities with the residents, such as helping to decorate the Gidwitz Place Sukkah or lighting the first candle and eating latkes on Chanukah. CJE SeniorLife received a National 2015 Jewish Programming Award from the Association of Jewish Aging Services, recognizing the value of the “In Step Together” program.
Mission-Driven Programs and Services

CJE has grown deep roots all over Chicagoland. Whether it’s through independent housing, transportation, counseling, home-delivered meals, exercise classes, continuing education, healthcare, consumer assistance, lifelong learning classes or synagogue partnerships, CJE’s enduring mission has had an impact on more than 23,000 people in the community this past year. In turn, the people we serve are the reason why CJE strives to do even more to enhance the lives of older adults, to create a stronger tapestry of compassionate support.

Results-Oriented Healthcare

Our residents, clients and patients weave in and out of the CJE system at different stages of their lives, benefiting from a fluid continuum of outcomes-driven healthcare.

Persons with Parkinson’s disease now have expanded program offerings at Lieberman Center. Two exercise classes designed for persons with Parkinson’s disease and their care partners, Seated Tai Chi and Seated Dance/Movement Therapy, have been added to the roster. A third addition is a Creative Arts Therapy Group called “Telling Your Story Through the Arts,” a multi-faceted puppetry project that incorporates scriptwriting, set design, voice-over and, of course, puppet-making. All classes are free and available to community members as well as residents. Funding for these classes is provided by the National Parkinson’s Foundation.

Lieberman’s Center for Heart Health admitted 89 patients with a primary cardiac disease diagnosis. In 2015, the 30-day rehospitalization rate due to cardiac related issues for those patients was 3%.

Lieberman Center is renowned in the area for the number of specialists who practice here to meet our patients’ special medical needs, as well as those who regularly refer patients to us because of the evidence-based medical care we provide. At Lieberman Center, 54 general practitioners and specialists enjoy privileges.
872 people received assistance applying for benefits through Consumer Assistance’s Resource Specialists. This yielded an average total saved per household of $2,179 to those who received counseling.

13,599 people called CJE’s Resource Center for information and referrals and were connected to services at CJE and other organizations.

CJE’s seven affordable and subsidized residential buildings throughout the north side of Chicago and Skokie provided apartments and suites, along with life enhancing services, to 562 individuals. One of these, Swartzberg House, has provided a home to more than 730 individuals since opening 35 years ago.

CJE’s Shalom Buses provided 35,995 one-way rides to 1,852 people, helping them get to medical appointments, the grocery store or special events.

CJE’s Adult Day Services provided stimulating, structured programming, like Creative Arts Therapy, in a safe environment for 206 individuals who needed memory support and socialization at three locations and through Culture Bus™.

CJE’s Adult Day Services provided individual and group counseling from CJE’s licensed clinical social workers and 160 persons attended support groups. 389 persons had their needs and concerns addressed by Linkages, a unique CJE program that assists older adults who have family members with disabilities.

A total of 290 people received individual and group counseling from CJE’s licensed clinical social workers and 262 older adults and their families with advice, referrals and support related to the transitions of aging; 37 people received ongoing bill-paying services. Also, 90 persons attended clutter support groups and presentations this year.

Your Eldercare Consultants, our geriatric care management team, provided 76,150 home-delivered meals were enjoyed by 436 clients, helping to reduce hunger and improve nutrition. During these delivery trips, volunteers and staff conduct “wellness” checks to make sure that clients are eating their food or to determine if they may need additional services from CJE SeniorLife.
The People Whose Lives We Touch

The tapestry of CJE is enhanced by the diversity of people we serve: residents, community members, short-term rehab patients, adult children, community professionals, students and so many more.

227 persons enjoyed the welcoming community at Weinberg Community for Senior Living, comprised of Gidwitz Place for Assisted Living and The Friend Center for Memory Care.

662 people received short-term or long-term skilled nursing at Lieberman Center in Skokie.

Over 100 worshipers—including family and friends of residents—attended High Holiday services coordinated by our Religious Life team at Lieberman Center and Weinberg Community.

CJE’s Creative Arts Therapy program has been cited as a highly successful model for engaging persons with Alzheimer’s and other cognitive disorders. Experienced and budding artists are appreciated throughout CJE with the benefits of Creative Arts Therapy showcased in many buildings. Weinberg Community regularly exhibits residents’ artwork produced during Creative Arts Therapy classes and, at Adult Day Services (ADS) in Evanston, participants’ artwork adorns the walls and halls. In addition to the tapestry project at Lieberman Center, residents create puppets, Kentucky Derby hats, crafts and paintings. For community members, Culture Bus™ and Art in the Moment are programs designed to help older adults with memory loss engage with others, using art as an inspirational way to reminisce and discuss current experiences.

Dog-lovers abound among CJE staff, volunteers, residents and community members. They came in droves to Weinberg Community’s first annual dog show. Lieberman Center celebrated a second, successful Lieber–Minster Dog Show, attracting dozens of canines and their human companions in competition for “Best in Show” and other prizes. CJE has a longstanding appreciation of the therapeutic value that dogs provide to older adults.
... Connecting with the Greater Community

Chicago Community Trust’s (CCT) “On the Table” event was hosted by Lieberman Center. CJE residents, volunteers, Board members, staff and community members came together to discuss CCT’s year-long centennial campaign. Dialogue centered on the importance of philanthropy and making our communities stronger, safer and more dynamic for an aging population.

CJE participated in Giving Tuesday, a global annual day of giving. Employees, volunteers and residents at several CJE locations posed with signs to inspire others to give. The photos were shared on CJE’s social media channels, including Facebook and Twitter. The campaign raised $9,114 and received a $5,000 matching gift from The Retirement Research Foundation for a total of $14,114.

CJE launched its first Celebrate CJE Facebook photo campaign. Friends were asked to share their own photos of family members or friends who inspired them to give back to seniors in the community. CJE Board Member Susan Ringel Segal’s photo, featured in the Summer edition of CJE LIFE Magazine, won the campaign by receiving 69 “likes.”

CJE’s Center for Healthy Living connected with 2,464 older adults throughout the Chicago area through 318 events and 477 hours of activities. Lectures, screenings, fitness and exercise programs are specifically designed to provide socialization, preserve independence and showcase “best practices” to stay healthy.

2,009 volunteers of all ages offered helping hands in many ways at CJE. They were kept informed by Vigor, a newsletter that was launched this year. Two volunteer teams were also formed to share ideas and experiences: Lieberman Friendly Visitor Team and Activity Leader Teams.

Honoring its deep commitment to providing professional education, CJE held eight CEU presentations at Lieberman Center, Weinberg Community and Adult Day Services; 95 CEUs were granted to Social Workers. Through a long-standing partnership with another eldercare provider, 47 CEUs were also provided to nurses.
A Merging of Many Talents ... Our Staff

CJE staff members are the heroes who see to it that our residences run like clockwork, healthy meals are prepared and served with care, rooms are clean, buses arrive on schedule, client appointments are kept, questions get answered and problems are resolved. We have more than 720 staff members, comprised of employees with long years of service (Almost 50% are with CJE for five years or more!), professionals with advanced degrees and specialists with certifications.

CJE welcomed a new Leadership team member: Thomas Lockwood, Vice President and Chief Financial Officer.

Darren Musat was named Mashgiach of the Year by Kashrus Magazine, a national award. Darren Musat is Food Production Manager at Lieberman Center.

Dr. Noel DeBacker, Medical Director of Lieberman Center for Health and Rehabilitation, was named President of the Illinois Medical Directors Association.

Employees of the Year

The following CJE SeniorLife staff members personify the values and commitment to customer service by which CJE has come to be known.

Nida Domines
Resident Care Supervisor, Lieberman Center for Health and Rehabilitation

Dorothy Levant
Manager, Robineau Residence

Ludmila Luscika
Personal Care Office Coordinator
Socially Accountable

CJE SeniorLife and its employees give back to the community and strive to provide vital assistance to those in need. Those CJE employees who responded to a staff survey reported volunteering 1,700–plus hours of personal time to over 50 diverse charitable, religious and civic organizations including The Chicago Bridge, LeadingAge Illinois, Chicago Botanic Garden, Gerontological Society of America, LifeSource and many more. This was in addition to donations of cash, blood, clothing, books and food. CJE staff members have also volunteered over 80 hours throughout CJE to help or serve food at Shabbat and holiday services.

CJE headquarters staff donated over 300 pounds of food to benefit Chicagoans in need served by the Dina and Eli Field EZRA Multi-Service Center and The ARK. Lieberman employees donated close to 500 pounds of food to the Greater Chicago Food Depository.

Through designated “Jeans Days,” CJE employees contributed $3,727, to the Employee Assistance Fund, used to help defray unanticipated expenses such as dental, housing and funeral costs for unidentified employees. Also, CJE employees and volunteers added $151 to the Fund, which were voluntarily donated from the proceeds of an employee Arts & Crafts Fair.

Weinberg Community donated dozens of pajamas to Jewish Child and Family Services during the holiday season and collected milk caps for Prairie Farms’ “Our Caps Your Cause” campaign that donated 25 cents per cap to the Alzheimer’s Association.

Special recognition goes out to CJE’s own Board of Directors who volunteered 1100 hours in 2015 to provide leadership, governance and stewardship in order to sustain CJE’s mission for generations to come.
Values

We fulfill our mission and realize our vision for and on behalf of our clients, our clients’ families, our staff, our Board members, and our volunteers by striving for excellence through respect, advocacy, compassion, intention, innovation and accountability.

Respect – Kavod
We recognize, honor and acknowledge the inherent value of each person for their wisdom, their culture, their background and their unique history.

Advocacy – Timicha
We give voice to our clients’ needs and facilitate positive actions on their behalf. We are actively engaged in public policy to influence, protect and help shape governmental programs and practices for the benefit of our community and clients.

Compassion – Chesed
We treat everyone with caring, sensitivity, understanding and supportive responsiveness.

Intention – Kavanah
We approach our work and each task with mindful consideration as to what we are doing and why we are doing it, as individuals and as an agency.

Innovation – Chidushim
We continue to advance our knowledge and strive to develop, evaluate and implement new and advanced programming and models of care to bring benefits to our clients, community and broader older adult/healthcare environment.

Accountability – Arevut
We are responsible individually and as an agency for honest, accurate work and interaction with others. We plan strategically and provide measurable quality care with clear fiscal and ethical responsibility.
CJE employees with 20 or more years of service.

Shevonne Abraham, Resident Care Assistant – Float Pool
Evangelina Albano, Billing and Collections, Team Leader
Leyena Amadio, Environmental Services Worker
Maureen Beckford, Resident Care Assistant II
Amelita Beltran, R.N., Health Services–Float Pool
Paula Berger, Resident Service Coordinator–Swartzberg
Martha Berry, Resident Care Assistant
Joel Brody, Manager, Internal Auditing
Susan Buchbinder, Director, Religious Life
Julie Calimag, Restorative Nurse
Wanda Capua, M.D.S. Nurse
Conchita Ching, R.N., Health Services
Shannon Conley, Health Services Coordinator
Esther Craven, Resource Specialist II, Consumer Assistance
Melanie Matin Croke, Sr. Accountant
Lois Davis, Activity Manager – Independent Housing
Tresa Dawravoo, R.N., Health Services–Float Pool
Marie Delva, Resident Care Assistant
Nida Domines, Resident Care Supervisor
Elena Dulay, L.P.N.
Grigory Dvorkin, Independent Housing Maintenance Specialist
Isabel Eligio, Environmental Services Worker
Paula Gayle, Resident Care Assistant
Delba Gines, Resident Care Assistant
Dorothy Graham, Receptionist
Sheila Gresham, In-home Service Worker II
Daphne Hill, Resident Care Assistant II
Marie Jean–Pierre, In-home Service Worker II
Angelita Juranes, R.N., Health Services
Maya Kramer, Activity Worker–Lieberman
Mary Kuriakose, Resident Care Assistant
Anna-Liisa La Croix, Director of Operations, Lieberman Center
Marie Lenesca, Dining Services Associate–Lieberman
Domingo Mabbagu, R.N., Health Services
Kelly McClendon, L.P.N.
Merle Mendoza, Environmental Services Worker
Myrtle Mobley, Health Information Clerk
Dorothy Moore, Program Aide
Pornchit Noomano, L.P.N.
Ricky Olaco, Resident Care Assistant
Gloria Ortiz, Resident Care Assistant
Temoorshah Osmani, Dining Services Associate–Lieberman
Donna Pezzuto, Vice President, Healthy Aging and Community Initiatives
Karen Platt, In-home Service Worker II
Barbara Rabyne, Senior Director, Community Services
Genoveva Sanchez, R.N., Health Services–Float Pool
Tara Sanderson-Bryant, Assistant, Human Resources
Barbara Sarasin, Geriatric Care Manager
Rocio Scala, Night Staff–Robineau
Melina Scheibe, Coordinator, Nutrition/Food
Erin Sharp, Program Support Specialist–Community Services
Helena Skowyra-Munoz, RN, Health Services–Float Pool
Lourdes Soriano, M.D.S. Nurse
Chana Sulpar, Resource Specialist II, Entry
Joseph Suzuki, Centralized Transportation Driver
Diana Sykes, Resident Care Assistant
Felicia Thomas, Personal Care Coordinator
Rozalya Trogub, Care Manager II/Service Coordinator
Dorothy Trogub, Resident Care Assistant
Wanda Turner, Activity Coordinator–Lieberman
Lucas Viloria, Dining Services Associate–Lieberman
Dennis Wedderburn, Environmental Services, Lead Person
Elaine Wilson, Resident Care Assistant
Financial Summary of Income and Expense

Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2015

Total Income in thousands $54,999

- Skilled Nursing $20,231 37%
- Assisted Living $12,259 22%
- Community Programs $8,189 15%
- Independent Living $6,724 12%
- Jewish Federation $5,527 10%
- Contributions $2,069 4%

Total Income in thousands $54,999

Functional Expenses in thousands $54,999

- Salaries & Benefits $32,345 59%
- Program Fees $6,324 11%
- Debt Expense $5,897 11%
- Occupancy $4,530 8%
- Supplies & Other $3,304 6%
- Food Service $2,599 5%

Functional Expenses in thousands $54,999

Income by Payor Source in thousands $54,999

- Private Pay $16,537 30%
- State of Illinois Medicaid $7,637 14%
- Medicare $7,219 13%
- Jewish Federation $5,527 10%
- Housing & Urban Development $4,711 9%
- Illinois Dept of Aging $4,655 8%
- Other $3,299 6%
- Foundations & Grants $3,345 6%
- Contributions $2,069 4%
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* Former Chair
The Fabric of Support … Philanthropy

We are the grateful beneficiaries of our community’s trust. Just as a tapestry receives its strength from the accumulation of fibers one by one, the strength of our organization only grows with each donor. We thank the following individuals, families, businesses, philanthropic organizations, foundations and government agencies who helped us provide services in 2014–2015.

Contributors

$100,000 +
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The Crown Family Philanthropies
Bernard Heerey Family Foundation
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