



COMMUNITY Matters

ISSUE NO. 37

A publication of Jewish Family Service of Northeastern Pennsylvania

Summer 2026

Newsletter Sponsored by the Barbara and Mel Sapsowitz Memorial Fund

Food Security: Strengthening Our Community One Meal at a Time



MAE S. GELB FOOD PANTRY

Donations

Help nourish our community by donating **nonperishable, kosher** items.



SHOP & FILL
a bag of groceries with nonperishable, kosher items.
(Please, **NO** expired items)

EXAMPLES OF PRIORITY ITEMS

- CANNED TUNA
- CANNED FRUIT
- CANNED VEGETABLES
- SOUP
- RICE
- BEANS
- CEREAL
- PEANUT BUTTER



PLEASE, NO GLASS JARS
NO EXPIRED ITEMS

Thank you

for your generosity and for helping provide food and hope to those in need.

Food security—the ability to consistently access enough nutritious food for an active, healthy life—is a growing concern for many individuals and families throughout Northeastern Pennsylvania. While hunger is often viewed as a problem affecting larger cities, the reality is that food insecurity impacts our neighbors right here in Scranton and the surrounding communities.

Rising grocery prices, housing costs, medical expenses, and other financial pressures have made it increasingly difficult for many households to afford basic necessities. Older adults living on fixed incomes, working families facing unexpected hardships, and individuals coping with unemployment or illness are often forced to make difficult choices between purchasing food and paying other essential bills.

At Jewish Family Service of Northeastern Pennsylvania, addressing food insecurity is a vital part of our mission. The Mae S. Gelb Kosher Food Pantry provides non-perishable food items and essential household paper products to individuals and families in need throughout the year. These resources help alleviate financial stress while ensuring that community members have access to basic necessities.

In addition to the pantry, JFS hosts Fresh Food Pantry distributions at special times throughout the year, providing fresh produce, kosher chickens, and other nutritious foods. These events help supplement household food supplies with healthy options that can be difficult for struggling families to afford, while also supporting the dignity and well-being of those we serve.

Food security is about more than preventing hunger. Proper nutrition supports physical health, mental wellness, child development, and independence for older adults. When people have reliable access to healthy food, they are better equipped to thrive at home, at school, and in the workplace.

As the need for assistance continues to grow, community support remains essential. Through donations, volunteer efforts, and partnerships, organizations like JFS can continue providing critical food assistance to our neighbors. Together, we can help ensure that no one in our community has to face hunger alone and that every individual has the opportunity to live with dignity, health, and hope.

2 Thank You for Supporting JFS During NEPA Gives!

Because of the incredible generosity of our donors, Jewish Family Service of Northeastern Pennsylvania had our most successful NEPA Gives campaign this year.

During the 24-hour giving event, supporters contributed \$4,585.32 to JFS, helping us finish 23rd out of over 400 participating organizations and 4th out of 77 medium-sized organizations.

A special thank you goes to our 10 for \$100 Match donors, who committed to matching gifts up to \$10,000 and helped generate excitement and momentum throughout the campaign. We are also grateful to the Moses Taylor Foundation for providing a \$1,000 Challenge Match, which encouraged additional giving and increased the impact of every donation made during NEPA Gives.

We are especially thankful to our matching gift donors, who stepped forward with this ambitious challenge. After the campaign concluded, these generous supporters graciously donated the remaining unmatched portion of the \$10,000 challenge, ensuring that the full match was realized. Combined with the funds raised during NEPA Gives and the Moses Taylor Foundation Challenge Match, this brought our grand total raised to \$16,585.32.

Every dollar raised helps JFS continue providing critical services and support to individuals and families throughout our community. Whether through counseling, food assistance, senior services, or emergency support, your generosity makes a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve.

Thank you to everyone who donated, shared our campaign, and helped spread the word. Your support strengthens our community and ensures that JFS can continue its mission of helping people in need with dignity, compassion, and care.

Together, we are making a difference.



THANK YOU

for Supporting JFS during NEPA Gives!

Because of you, we made an incredible impact in our community.


23rd
out of 316
ORGANIZATIONS


4th
out of 77
MEDIUM SIZED
ORGANIZATIONS

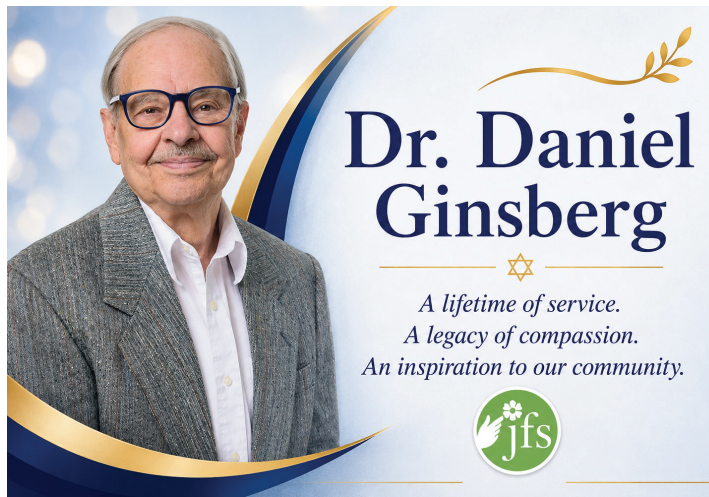

\$4,585.32
RAISED IN
24 HOURS
FOR JFS


\$16,585.32
TOTAL RAISED
FOR JFS
INCLUDING
OUR MATCHES

Stronger Together. Thank you for making a difference!



JFS Celebrates Dr. Daniel Ginsberg at 111th Annual Meeting 3



Jewish Family Service of Northeastern Pennsylvania (JFS) celebrated its 111th Annual Meeting on June 18 at the Scranton JCC, honoring Dr. Daniel Ginsberg for his lifetime of service, leadership, and dedication to the community.

Prior to the celebration, JFS held its annual business meeting in the JCC Linder Room, where the 2026–2027 Board of Directors and Officers were officially installed.

Family, friends, colleagues, and community leaders gathered to recognize Dr. Ginsberg's extraordinary contributions as a social worker,

educator, advocate, and volunteer. As he approaches his 95th birthday this September, Dr. Ginsberg continues to inspire through his commitment to helping others and strengthening organizations throughout Northeastern Pennsylvania.

The evening also highlighted JFS's ongoing mission of providing counseling, older adult services, food assistance, advocacy, and community support to those in need.

JFS extends its sincere gratitude to all who attended, sponsored, volunteered, and helped make this special event a success. As the agency begins its 112th year of service, it remains dedicated to strengthening lives and building a better community.

JFS Installs 2026-2027 Board of Directors



Pictured Left to Right:
Missy Bednar, Louis Nivert,
Barbara Nivert, Molly Rutta,
Ann Monsky, Susan Blum
Connors, Nancy Johnson,
Elliot Schoenberg,

Jewish Family Service of Northeastern Pennsylvania (JFS) is pleased to welcome Missy Bednar, Mindy Grossman, Ann Monsky, Murray Glick and Molly Rutta as newly elected members of its Board of Directors. Their election took place at JFS's 111th Annual Meeting on June 18, marking an important step in strengthening the agency's leadership for the year ahead.

The newly elected directors join a dedicated group of returning board members whose continued service provides experience, continuity, and guidance for JFS. Returning Directors include Gary Beckhorn, Rhonda Fallk, Dovid Yehudah Fink, Lynne Fragin, David Hollander, Michael Mardo, Adam Shprintzen and Dr. Nancy Willis.

Leadership for 2026–2027 includes Barbara Nivert, President; Nancy Johnson, First Vice President; Elliot Schoenberg, Second Vice President; Louis Nivert, Treasurer; and Susan Blum Connors, Secretary. Together, the officers and board work collaboratively to support JFS's mission and ensure the organization remains responsive to the needs of the community.



Jewish Family Service OF NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA

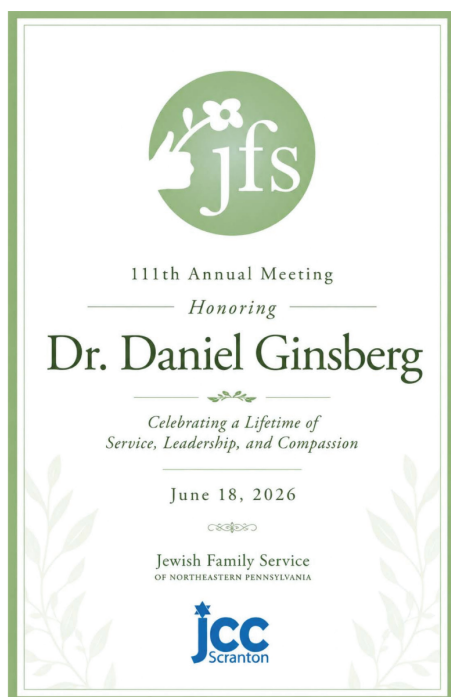
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Jewish Family Service of Northeastern Pennsylvania is accredited by the Council on Accreditation, Member of the Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies and is an affiliated organization of the United Way of Lackawanna, Wayne and Pike Counties and the Jewish Federation of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

This newsletter is dedicated to the memory of Barbara and Mel Sapsowitz and to the continuation of their caring work within our community.

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Thank you to everyone who supported our 111th Annual Meeting Honoring Dr. Ginsberg!



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