



# Connections

Your Donor Newsletter

## A Hand Up, Not a Handout

**W**hile the majority of **JFCS** services are available to anyone, certain programs such as **Jewish Career Services** and **Helping Hands** are integral components of Jewish Community Services. As the following story reveals, programs that you make possible enable those experiencing severe life challenges to work toward their goals while maintaining dignity and hope.

### Asher's Story

For 20 years, Asher owned a thriving business and enjoyed the many material things that went along with financial success. However, during the 2008 recession, Asher hit rock bottom.

"My business crashed and burned," he says quietly. "I lost my house, and had to declare bankruptcy. Over time, I was reduced to using food stamps, and seeking out food banks. And at some point, I had to sell my plasma to pay for food and gas."

The 49-year-old former business owner wistfully concedes that being divorced and having grown children, at least spared him the grief of subjecting his family to embarrassment and difficult times. "If you have to go through anything like this, best to do it alone," he says wryly.

**"My business crashed and burned. I lost my house, and had to declare bankruptcy."**

Eventually the pendulum began to swing back in Asher's favor. "My rabbi referred me to the **JFCS** program **Helping Hands** where I received gift cards and money to help pay my bills."

Asher also received job-search assistance through **Jewish Career Services**.



**"I can't say enough good things about Kathy Rood, who runs Helping Hands. She was helpful, positive and compassionate – I think she is just great!"**

*...continued next page*

## Facts about Jewish Community Services

**3,500**

Meals served to seniors at the JFCS Center for Senior Enrichment at Brookdale Christown

**800**

People attended culturally-sensitive mental health workshops offered by the Aleinu Program for Orthodox Jews and the broader Jewish community.

**4,582**

Jewish patients and their families received spiritual care and comfort from a Rabbinical chaplain

**16%**

Increase in Jewish Community Services over previous year which represents the most growth of any area agency-wide



# A Hand Up, Not a Handout

continued

"I discovered that resume-writing has changed over the years. It's more like an art form now... who knew?" he laughs. "What did I know about job banks or networking groups? My career coach gave me information and referrals. So I went, met people, and kept pounding the pavement."

In 2011, Asher secured a full-time management position at an established firm.

"While the salary was lower than warranted by my qualifications, I no longer had to rely on others."

**"Giving back, and helping JFCS to help others, is the least I can do."**

Not only is he able to pay back debts, Asher also chooses to donate regularly to **JFCS**. "I

know they don't expect it, but for me, it's a way to express my gratitude," he shrugs his shoulders and smiles broadly. "Giving back, and helping **JFCS** to help others, is the least I can do. "

*(Alternative name and photo have been used to protect the client's privacy).*

## Annual Backpack Drive June through August 1st

Hundreds of children need new backpacks and school supplies.

### 3 Ways You Can Help:

- Shop and drop off supplies and new backpacks at our site.
- Organize a backpack drive in your community or workplace.
- Donate cash.

 [JFCSAZ.org/backpacks](http://JFCSAZ.org/backpacks)



# Jewish Career Services

Thanks to the vision of **Michael Blank** along with local rabbis, community leaders and organizations, **Jewish Career Services** was created to help Jewish individuals in Phoenix who have lost their jobs and are experiencing a financial crisis.

The program's main objective is to provide a 'hand up', not a handout.

"Since its inception in 2011, **Jewish Career Services** has helped many people renew their confidence by improving resumes as well as offering networking, job seeking and interviewing advice," points out **Kathy Rood**, Program Manager for Jewish Social Services.

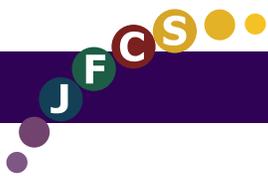
Aimed 40 to 60 year olds, the program helps those who may not know how to 'network' much less look for a job on the Internet.

"We have received terrific positive feedback regarding the program," says Rood. "Out of the 238 people who 'graduated' from **Jewish Career Services**, over one-third reported finding work." *(see related story on cover page)*

**Ellie Schwartzberg**, VP of **Jewish Career Services**, also commented on the success of the program. "Even now, with the worst of the Recession's fallout in the past, the program is still going strong. With the very

generous endowment from the **Arthur M. Blank Foundation**, we can continue to be of help in the future; especially to those in the middle age group who are most impacted," states Schwartzberg.

"Carmen and I were overwhelmed by the generosity and timing of my brother's gift," said **Michael Blank** who also serves on the Board of Directors of the Jewish Community Foundation. "The **Jewish Career Services** program has been an important part of our philanthropic efforts and this fund will assure its continuity." *(see related story on next page)*



# Donor Profile: Jeff Flancer

## Charity Starts in the Kitchen

Since the 2000 start-up of the **Flancer Restaurants** in Gilbert and Mesa, owner **Jeff Flancer** has raised more than \$200,000 for charitable organizations. A graduate of the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, NYC, the award-winning chef insists that Flancer’s wonderful staff and customers deserve the majority of the credit for this achievement. “I’m responsible for perhaps one-third of the monies raised,” says the self-effacing restaurateur. “The bulk of the funds are brought in by my staff and donated by my customers. They are the real heroes in this!”

When asked about what inspired his sense of charity, Flancer laughed. “When I first started in the business, my restaurant was our ‘charity of choice,’ he explains jokingly. “Then after enjoying some success, I wanted to give back. That’s when I discovered that philanthropy is not only a cool thing to do for others, it is also fun and quite rewarding.”

**“It is gratifying to know that JFCS offers advice... and coping strategies.”**

## Courage Matched by Generosity

Last year Flancer experienced the death of his 15-year old son, Max, who drowned in a Gilbert canal near the family home. While deemed an accidental death by the authorities, the teenager might have been struggling with emotional issues.

“Max was a wonderful kid; big-hearted and very bright,” stresses Flancer, who has been courageously forth-coming about his son’s plight. “While we realized that Max was suf-

fering from depression, it seemed that no matter how hard the family tried, nothing really made much of an impact.” To spare other parents this kind of tragedy, Flancer established a fund in his son’s name at **Jewish Family & Children’s Service (JFCS)**.

The grieving father goes on to point out the importance of making professional counseling available to parents of children suffering from mental problems. “It is gratifying to know that **JFCS** offers advice in terms of in-home assessments and coping strategies as



a community service,” he points out. “And that’s why I am happy to offer this organization financial support.”

When he’s not raising money for **JFCS** and other charities, or creating award-winning culinary delights, Flancer is busy helping his oldest son Gaffney get ready for college. “He’s very talented in the area of art. At the age of 10, Gaffney designed my restaurant’s logo!”

**“After enjoying some success, I wanted to give back.”**

**Shop on Amazon or at Fry’s — and support JFCS!** *It is easy and does not cost you anything!*



Did you know that **every time you shop online at Amazon, they will make a donation to JFCS?**

You pay nothing, and it will NOT affect the price you pay. Sign up at **www.smile.amazon.com** and enter **JFCS** as your charity.

For more details: **www.JFCSAZ.org/amazon**



You can also support JFCS when you go food shopping and **it does NOT take away from your points!** Please note that even if you already have a Fry’s VIP card, you still need to create an online account to designate **JFCS** as your charity.

For more details: **www.JFCSAZ.org/frys**



# Thank you for making a difference!

## Brighter Tomorrow Luncheon

This year we had a record attendance of **nearly 500 guests** whose generous contributions totaled **\$280,000**. You made a difference in the lives of the neediest people in our community who are facing desperate mental, behavioral and medical challenges. Thank you to everyone who attended our **Brighter Tomorrow Luncheon**.

In a surprise announcement made at the **JFCS Brighter Tomorrow Luncheon** on February 27, **Arthur M. Blank**, speaking via video, revealed his plans to establish a **\$500,000** permanent endowment to fund half the annual cost of **JFCS Jewish Career Services**.

To be held and administered by the Jewish Community Foundation, this extraordinary gift from the Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation of Atlanta, Georgia was made in honor of Arthur Blank's brother, **Michael** and his wife **Carmen Blank** who are long-time Phoenix residents.



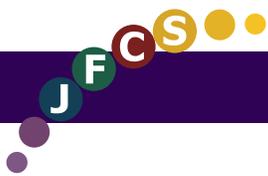
### *Leave A Legacy*

Please remember **JFCS** in your will, estate plan or by beneficiary designation. You can make a gift to **JFCS** that costs you nothing during your lifetime. And, you can choose how your legacy lives on by funding the solution of your choice within the many services that **JFCS** provides. The **JFCS Legacy Society** is comprised of donors who have confirmed us as a beneficiary in their estate plans by listing **JFCS** in their will, trust, life insurance, or retirement plan.

For more information, please contact **Frank Jacobson** at **(602) 567-8329** or [Frank.Jacobson@jfcsaz.org](mailto:Frank.Jacobson@jfcsaz.org). *Be the one to make a difference for tomorrow*



*Legacy Society*  
Jewish Family & Children's Service



# Donor Profile: **Cindy and Mike Watts**

## **Making the World a Better Place Starting with Their Own Backyard**

**Mike and Cindy Watts** are co-founders and co-owners of Sunstate, a highly successful equipment rental company that began in 1977 in Arizona and has expanded to eight other states. Mike and Cindy both grew up in the west Phoenix neighborhood of Maryvale, where they met during a high school graduation ceremony. At the time, Maryvale was a newly-developed suburb.

However, like many 'inner-ring' suburbs, Maryvale began experiencing urban decline along with increased crime, and a myriad of attendant socio-economic problem in the

**“Respect for other people and ‘doing whatever it takes’ are an integral part of our professional and personal code. This is also what JFCS stands for.”**

80’s and 90’s. Fast forward to 2015, and there is evidence of positive social change as well as property improvement projects thanks to the good work of the Maryvale Revitalization Corporation (MRC) over the last ten years.

Considerable credit for Maryvale’s on-going improvements also goes to Mike and Cindy. Adhering to a detailed revitalization template, these community leaders contributed \$1 million dollars to the Maryvale YMCA and, quite recently, a generous amount to the **Jewish Family & Children’s Service (JFCS)** new

**Catalina Health Center.** Outpatient behavioral health services are offered at **Catalina Health Center** to more than 6,000 children, teens and adults; and specialized services include trauma treatment for babies and children, substance abuse and family crisis issues as well as physical health and wellness programs.

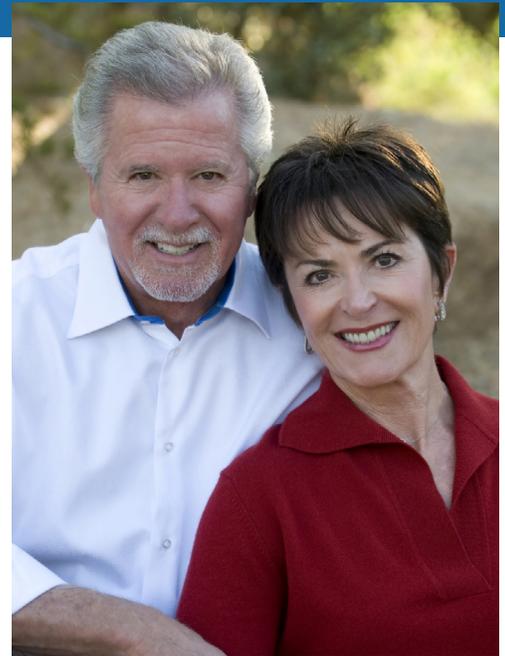
“The **JFCS** Catalina project addresses all needs — certainly those in the domestic area — and seemed a ‘natural fit’ for our philanthropic strategy,” says Mike. “When we reviewed the details, we were impressed by the broad reach and degree of social impact of this much-needed integrated health center,” points out Cindy, who was named Maryvale Woman of the Year in

2007. She further explains that a fully comprehensive approach is their way of selecting other programs to endow such as

ASU’s Center for Violence Prevention and Community Safety (CVPCS).

## **Doing Whatever It Takes**

Though not of the Jewish faith, both Mike and Cindy are impressed by how much **JFCS** standards reflect their corporate values. ‘Never commit to anything without following through,’ ‘It starts at the top,’ and ‘Make every attempt to change what you can’ are among Sunstate’s highest priorities.



“Respect for other people and ‘doing whatever it takes’ are an integral part of our professional and personal code,” stresses Mike. “This is also what **JFCS** stands for.” Cindy is quick to add, “We see money as a tool to make the world a better place.”

## **SPRING WISH LIST**

*Your donation helps graduating high school seniors who live in foster care group homes:*

- \$100** pays for one college application fee
- \$75** pays for one senior’s graduation photos
- \$50** pays for one graduation cap & gown
- \$25** buys a gift card for a senior

### **DONATE NOW**

[www.jfcsaz.org/donate](http://www.jfcsaz.org/donate)

 [Jessica.Green@jfcsaz.org](mailto:Jessica.Green@jfcsaz.org)  
(602)567-8327



# Grantor Recognition

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CREDIBILITY • INTEGRITY • ACHIEVEMENT

Accredited by the National Council  
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Family and Children



Strategic partner of the  
Jewish Federation  
of Greater Phoenix

## Anderman Family Charitable Fund

\$10,000 to support domestic violence survivors and their children in the **Shelter Without Walls** program.



**Arizona Lottery**  
\$1,000 to support the **JFCS  
Brighter Tomorrow Luncheon.**



**SEASON FOR SHARING**



**Arizona Republic/12 News  
Season for Sharing**  
\$10,000 for foster care youth in the  
**Transition to Adulthood** program.

## COX Charities

**Cox Charities**  
\$7,500 for the school-based prevention program, **Creating Peaceful Families.**



**Executive Council Charities**  
\$2,000 for foster care youth in the  
**Transition to Adulthood** program.  
**Lincoln GIVES,**



Honored by Experts. Honored to Serve.

**John C. Lincoln Health  
Network's Employee Fund**  
\$2,000 for paid internships for foster care youth at **Real World Job Development.**



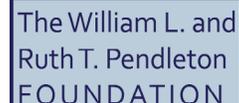
**In-N-Out Burger Foundation**  
\$5,000 for the school-based prevention program, **Creating Peaceful Families.**

## EMERGENCY FOOD AND SHELTER PROGRAM

**Maricopa County Emergency  
Food & Shelter Program (EFSP)**  
\$12,000 in **Rental and Mortgage Assistance** for youth transitioning out of foster care.



**Nationwide Insurance  
Foundation**  
\$10,000 to support domestic violence survivors and their children in the **Shelter Without Walls** program.



**The William L. and Ruth T.  
Pendleton Memorial Fund**  
\$5,000 for In-Home Older Adult Services.



**Wells Fargo**  
\$15,000 for GED & job training, life skills, and paid internships for foster care youth at **Real World Job Development.**



[www.JFCSAZ.org/donate](http://www.JFCSAZ.org/donate)



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