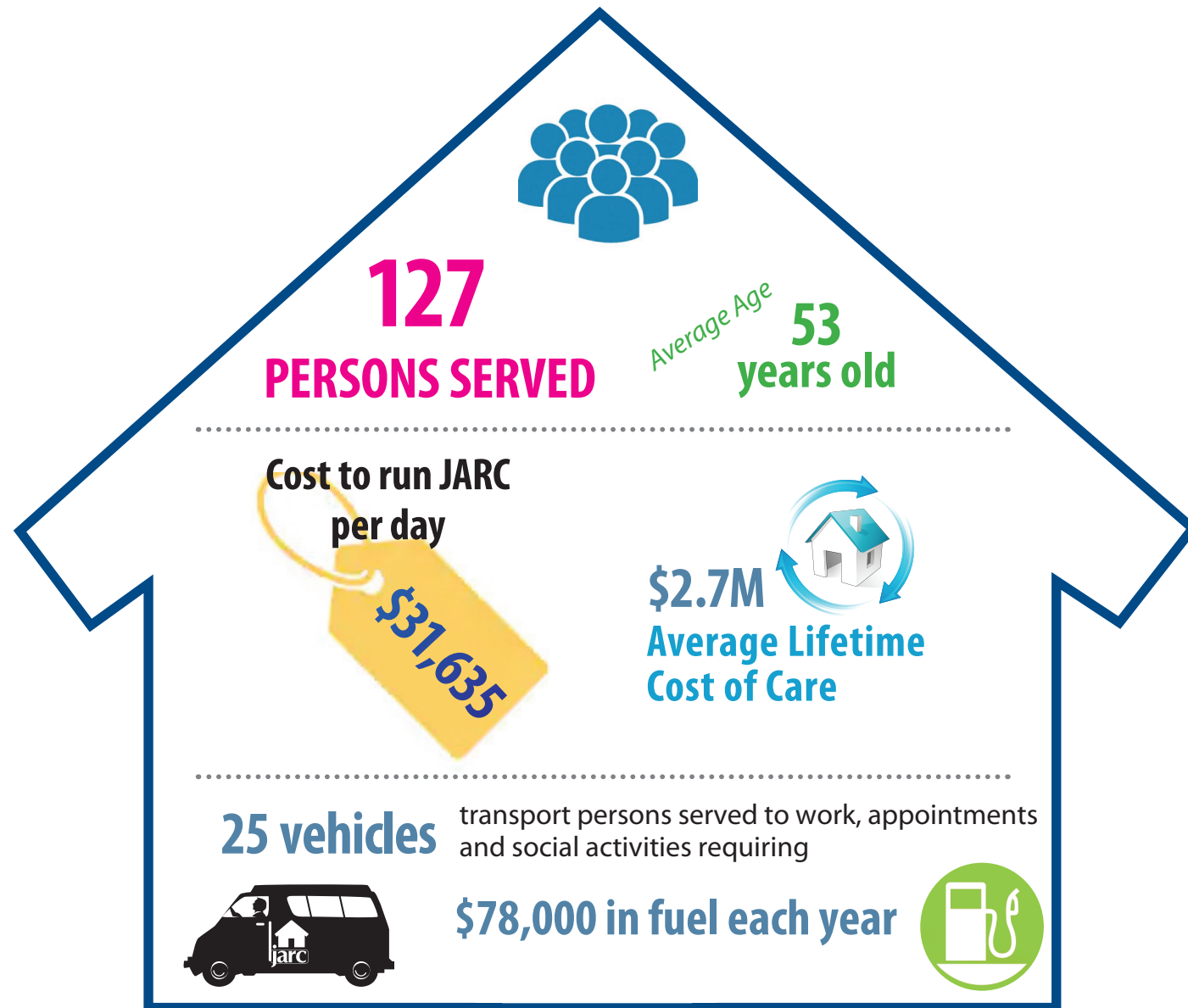




2021: Year in Review

# Thank you for your incredible kindness.



Dear Friend,

As much as we hoped this book would not need to reference the pandemic, it remains an important part of our lives at JARC.

We are so grateful to have caring staff in our homes, kind volunteers at the ready to jump in whenever and however needed, and incredibly generous donors like you, funding our way through the pandemic and beyond.

Thank you for all you have done for JARC, pre-COVID-19 and now. The programs described in this book would not be possible without your support.

We, and the people we serve, are SO LUCKY to know you.

Very gratefully,



*Joshua Tobias*

Joshua Tobias  
Board President



*Shaindle Braunstein*

Shaindle Braunstein  
Chief Executive Officer

# JARC @ M1 Fundraiser



Like other nonprofits that host events, JARC was again faced with a dilemma during COVID-19: where should the annual fundraiser be held, in a COVID-safe way? JARC at M1 came together successfully and nearly 500 guests spent the afternoon at M1 Concourse listening to music by Mega 80's, playing arcade games, and zooming around the track at triple digit speeds with professional drivers. In the evening, guests enjoyed dinner and music by Grammy award-winning singer Rick Springfield. It was a fun event and beneficial for JARC, raising \$1.2 million!



# Presenting Sponsor Highlight

JARC at M1 was presented by The Steinway/Howard Family, in memory of Marvin and Beatrice Howard. The Steinway/Howard Family has a long history with JARC, as Robert Howard has lived in a JARC home since 1989.

It was Marvin's and Bea's priority that people be attentive to and respectful of Robert. They felt strongly that Robert deserved to have a purpose, be involved in the community, and lead a happy, fulfilling life. Both Marvin and Bea were not only supportive of Robert, but also making sure that they could do anything to help the JARC homes provide a happy and nurturing environment for everyone in JARC's care.

Only with the support of generous community members such as the Steinway/Howard Family JARC continues its work. JARC is proud to support Robert and everyone else they have served throughout its entire history.



Bea, Robert, and Marvin Howard

# A Reminder of Where JARC Was

This year JARC's fundraiser highlighted the 1980s and everything that was accomplished throughout the decade. JARC's first office was acquired, many homes opened, the legendary Norman Wachler became President, and illustrious Chief Executive Officer, Joyce Keller, took charge. It was a difficult time for persons with disabilities and the community didn't always welcome JARC homes. During the 1980s, a JARC home that was getting ready to open was broken into and set on fire. Rather than giving up, Norm and Joyce dug in their heels to move forward and make sure those in the homes were the best neighbors they could be.

Many individuals who entered JARC's care during the 1980s are still with JARC. For example, for more than 40 years Barbara has been served by JARC. She has developed significantly as an individual and continues to enjoy being part of the community as she ages. Being involved in her life in such a significant way is so meaningful for JARC and it has been an honor to share her every milestone, good and bad, alongside other persons served.



Barbara in the 1980s and now

# COVID-19

# Vaccination Clinics



Early in the COVID-19 vaccination rollout, JARC had a strong voice in the developmental disability community. Persons served had spent 10 months strictly sheltering in place. When they qualified for vaccination, COVID-19 vaccines were sparse and appointments were extremely difficult to schedule. Not only that, coordinating group home residents together was nearly impossible. As a workaround, JARC found a way to host clinics at the Max M. Fisher Federation Building and between January and March, vaccinated every JARC person served and direct care staff who wanted it.

Michigan's Oakland County Health Department noticed how efficient and effective these clinics were and asked JARC to facilitate more vaccine clinics for those experiencing difficulties getting the vaccine. This included 11 other group home providers and individuals in various situations.

For example, someone with a debilitating anxiety disorder may not do well at a large clinic venue like

the ones held at professional sports arenas. Someone with an autoimmune disorder and no car would be at risk taking public transit to a vaccination site. An individual who has trouble walking would have tremendous difficulty standing in line for an hour or more. Challenges like these are regularly considered at JARC, making JARC the perfect fit for customized vaccination experiences.

At JARC, the individual with the anxiety disorder was vaccinated while comfortably in their vehicle. The person without a car was picked up and driven 45 minutes by a vaccinated, masked JARC volunteer. The huge number of people who couldn't walk or stand for long periods of time were given seats and vaccinated quickly.

Thanks to the strong partnership of the Jewish Federation, JARC hosted 21 clinics, and vaccinated a total of 4,000 people. As the booster becomes more available and the age range widens, JARC will continue to serve the community with vaccination clinics as needed.

# Therapy Bringing out the Best

The COVID-19 pandemic has taught JARC many lessons, one of which is the importance of therapeutic services. JARC's therapy department specializes in individualized services, tailored to each person. This program has culminated in numerous benefits. Below are just two of the many examples.

One individual who was almost nonverbal started to speak regularly. They gained confidence in speech and began listing things they enjoy and places they had been. Their newfound confidence is present not only during therapy sessions but has transferred to all other aspects of life. The home manager was ecstatic to see these improvements.

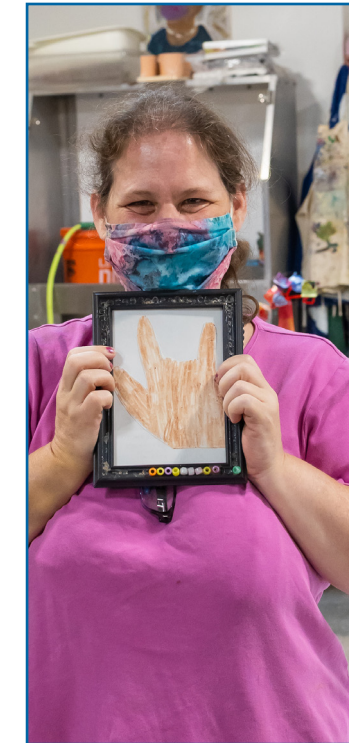
Another individual in a JARC home had some physical limitations. This person had difficulty with fine motor skills and often complained that their hands were not functional. The therapy staff worked with this person providing gentle assistance in holding art utensils. After completing an art project with assistance, the person was so proud and exhibited a level of self-esteem that the home staff had never seen before. They now love doing art projects like the one to the right.



# Activities, Events, And So Much Fun

## Summer Cookout

With all persons served vaccinated, JARC was thrilled to host its first cookout since 2019. Persons served and staff were delighted to see each other from a distance. Kosher hot dogs and hamburgers were eaten, music was enjoyed and smiles were shared. Thanks to the Ethel Hyman and Rose Kaplan Foundation for sponsoring this heartwarming event!



## Soul Studio Art Show

Art projects ramped up at JARC homes during the pandemic. These COVID-safe activities evoked a new personal passion for many persons served. When the opportunity came to showcase their art at Soul Studio, many were thrilled to invite their friends and family to see their art on display. The art show was a collaboration with Friendship Circle and about 150 guests perused the art and enjoyed the beautiful and creative space at Soul Studio.

# Activities, Events, And So Much Fun

## Volunteer Appreciation Event

The need for JARC volunteers has shifted during the pandemic, but certainly not diminished, and there has been no shortage of amazing community members who have generously given of their time. To thank these kind people, JARC organized a drive-thru appreciation event. JARC vans filled with persons served lined the Federation Building's parking lot and cheered as 66 volunteers drove through to receive a few thank you gifts. With everything that has been going on since the pandemic began, JARC is incredibly grateful to have so many caring individuals helping along the way.





# Celebrating the Holidays

**Purim** activities were in full (socially distanced) swing this year. Members of the JARC Board of Directors volunteered to create fun packages of *mishloach manos* for the homes. They dressed up and waved *graggars* as JARC vans filled with persons served drove by to pick up their goodies. The festive afternoon was followed by a virtual *Megillah* reading by Rabbi Joey Krakoff.



For **Passover**, virtual Seders were all the rage. JARC hosted five Seders, led by volunteers. All persons served had the opportunity to enjoy a delicious Passover meal. While virtual Seders are not ideal, they did make it easy for everyone to participate for as long as they wanted to. Thank you to Judy and Jeff Aisen for sponsoring this holiday!

# Celebrating the Holidays

As is the case of most Jewish events, food was the focus of JARC's High Holy Day festivities. Beautiful kosher meals were provided for **Rosh Hashanah** and to break the fast for **Yom Kippur**. As for what has become a new tradition, a COVID-safe **Sukkot** was celebrated in the Jewish Federation parking lot, complete with a *sukkah*, *lulav* and *etrog*, apple cider, doughnuts, arts and crafts, a DJ, and several parking spaces that became a dance floor. Thank you to Aileen and Harvey Kleiman for sponsoring these events!

**Thanksgiving** came with all the usual festivities: a wonderful, traditional Thanksgiving meal, dessert, and camaraderie. The meal was provided for all persons served and staff working in the homes during the holiday. **Hanukkah** was celebrated with a virtual first night and a beautiful, festive dinner. The homes logged on to light candles together and sing Hanukkah songs. As a bonus, a few days into Hanukkah, CEO Shaindle Braunstein led a virtual Hanukkah cookie decorating tutorial. Thanks Bill and Holly Birndorf for making these holiday celebrations possible!



# Gratitude for JARC Staff

The pandemic has brought on another challenging year for direct care staff. With the support of incredible donors, JARC provides numerous employee benefits, above and beyond a competitive health insurance package. Some of these additional benefits include:

- An employee referral bonus
- Uber costs covered when staff members have unreliable transportation and can't get to or from their shift
- A full salary as the County provides minimal staff funding and JARC supplements to provide higher wages
- When an employee experiences a personal crisis, they can receive a grant from the Shulman Family Emergency Fund to help with expenses like funeral costs, car repairs, utilities, medical bills, and much more

**A variety of other incentives are provided by donor funds:**

- o Collins JARC Heart Employee Recognition Fund, sponsored by Margo Collins
- o Joyce Keller & Michael A. Walch Staff Recognition Fund
- o Robert Feldstein Workforce Support Initiative
- o Janis and Larry Shulman Staff Award Fund
- o Woll Family Fund for Staff Education, Development and Appreciation, sponsored by Margo and Doug Woll

Each of these benefits comes at a significant cost and, without the generosity of JARC's donors, these benefits could not be offered. To learn more, please contact Jenny at [jennykabert@jarc.org](mailto:jennykabert@jarc.org) or 248.940.2603.



## In the last year JARC provided staff:

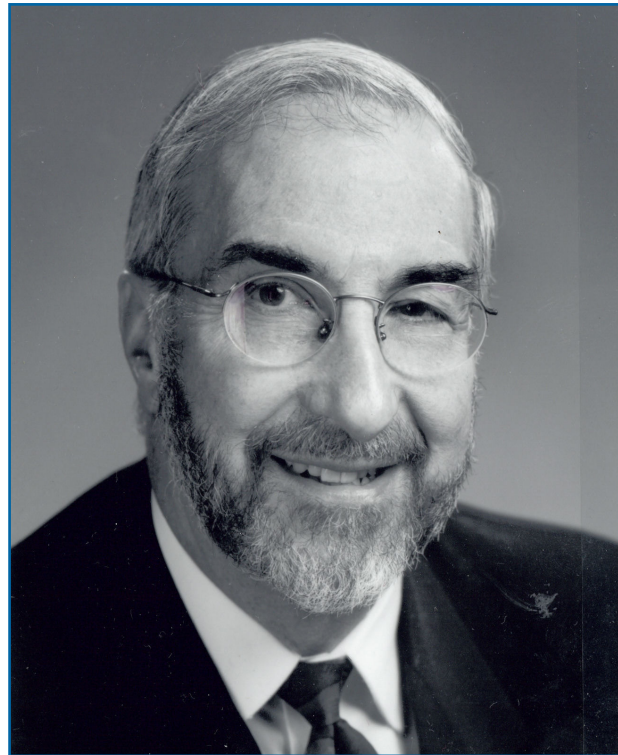
**\$200,000+** in bonuses

**\$75,000** in grants from the Shulman Family Emergency Fund

**\$20,000** in transportation to and from the homes



# Remembering Allan “Geli” Gelfond



There is not enough space within these pages to properly convey who Geli was and the impact he had on JARC and the entire community.

To say Geli was well-known in Jewish Detroit would be an understatement. Having worked and volunteered at many Jewish agencies, he was a beloved community figurehead. Geli was always thinking of others. He enjoyed getting to know people and was known to send newspaper clippings to people who had expressed an interest in a particular topic.

A true people person, born leader, and trained social worker, Geli served as an executive at the Jewish Community Center (JCC) for about 20

years and he supervised his team with the same gentleness that he did everything else in his life. He created an environment of collaboration and kindness and these key ingredients worked wonders for his team and those receiving services. Geli was so adored that in 2007, he received the Mandell L. & Madeleine H. Berman Award for Outstanding Professional Jewish Communal Service, one of the most prestigious professional awards in the community.

In his professional role and in his personal life as a father of a daughter with a disability, Geli and his colleagues recognized a need for a social outlet for children with developmental disabilities. This was in the 1960s, when everything was especially difficult for the disability community and these individuals were often ignored or berated. The head of this new social program needed to be passionate, open-minded, kind-hearted, and willing to advocate. Geli was the perfect fit. The parents and professionals involved, including his wife Harriet, fought hard and created Parents Association for Jewish Residential Care, which ultimately evolved into what is now JARC.

Geli continued to be a strong supporter of JARC throughout his life and his daughter Gila has been in JARC's Independent Living Services program for 34 years. It was a true honor and privilege to know Geli and his memory will continue in JARC's work.



Thanks to the Leonard N. Simons Jewish Community Archives for providing photos.

# Accessibility for All

JARC received two incredibly generous contributions that will be used to renovate home interiors and make them more accessible. The early months of 2022 will be spent determining exactly what needs to be done at each home, with the hope that the first construction project will begin in the following months. The overall benefits of this project are limitless in terms of improving quality of life for JARC persons served. It is especially vital as people age and mobility needs increase. Now they can age in homes that will be prepared for these limitations. Thank you to our anonymous donor and the Robert Feldstein Aging-in-Place Accessibility Initiative for supporting these renovations.



In addition to accessible interiors, another donor has generously matched \$25,000 in donations for the purpose of improving accessibility of outdoor spaces at JARC homes. These funds will ensure that all outdoor areas at the homes can be safely accessed with walkers, wheelchairs and other devices that assist with physical limitations. Research has shown that sufficient time outdoors encourages exercise and improves immune function, as well as decreases anxiety and depression.

With these incredible contributions, JARC persons served can look forward to safely enjoying all areas of their homes. JARC is proud to partner with Detroit Disability Power, who is providing disability access consulting on all of these projects.



# 2022 and Beyond

Despite the challenges of helping people move out of institutions and into group homes in the 1980s, JARC persevered and was on the cutting edge of caring for people with developmental disabilities. Since then, group homes have become the norm in many communities. But JARC is not only here to maintain the standard. JARC always strives to meet the changing needs of the community, even if what is needed is a new mode of service.

The group home model has been a common standard for several decades and is still what's best for many now. However, for people who are able to live without 24/7 care, their parents and guardians would prefer they have more independence. The ideal solution is a community where their children live near others with disabilities, have an opportunity to experience companionship, and have support available when needed.



This new option is exactly the expected outcome of JARC's new partnership with Integrative Neighborhoods of Oakland County (INOC). Currently, there is already an INOC "pod" set up in Farmington Hills, Michigan where six young adults with developmental disabilities all live in the same apartment complex. They have a staff person who lives in the complex and plans outings and events for the young adults. This staff person also works on skill building and helps each person as needed, tailored to each individual's interests and limitations. This new living option encourages independence while also reducing isolation for persons with developmental disabilities.

Both JARC and INOC are contacted regularly about gaining support for their loved ones who can live independently but need some help. As a result, more of these "pods" will be formed throughout the metro Detroit area. Thanks to a generous grant provided by The Jewish Fund, the JARC and INOC partnership is kicking off on solid footing with funding to support a program director for the first three years. JARC is thrilled about the new partnership and excited to have a plan, opportunity, and funding to address this need in the community.

Supported By:



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\* of blessed memory

Thanks to your time and financial support, JARC has managed to work effectively throughout the pandemic and is now even stronger than before. As JARC faced new challenges during COVID-19, modifications and adaptations were made, communication was strengthened, and service to persons served continued to improve. New virtual and distanced programs have become beloved by persons served and continue to be appreciated daily.

Special thanks to JARC's generous program and holiday sponsors for this year:

## Edible Art and Older Adult Services

Bluma Schechter

## Fall Holidays

Aileen and Harvey Kleiman

## In-Home Activities

Jennifer Kaplan and Ron Applebaum

## Passover Seders

Judy and Jeff Aisen

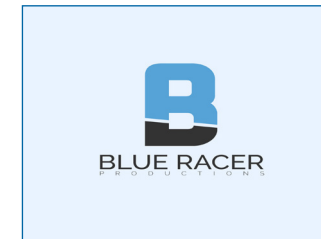
## Thanksgiving and Hanukkah Meals

Holly and William Birndorf

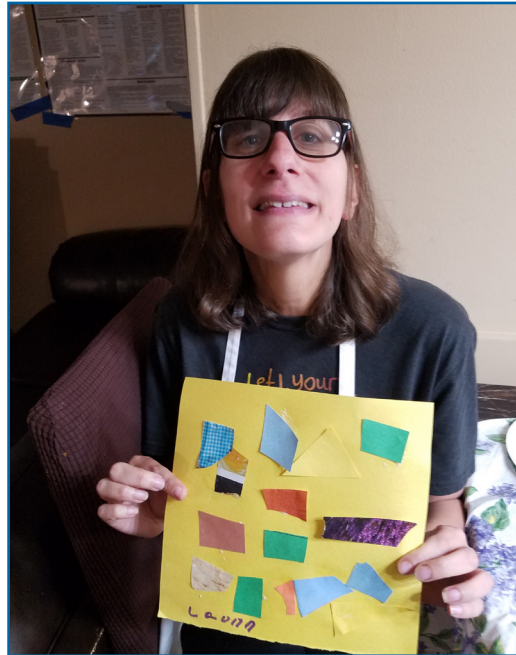
## Virtual Baking Classes

The Miller Family in honor of Emily and Norah Miller's B'not Mitzvah

# Thank you, Annual Sponsors!







Enriching Lives.  
Erasing Barriers.

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