



The Support Report



A COMMUNITY OF KINDNESS POWERED BY YOU

Home is where the Friendship Is

When visiting the Samuels Home, you're ushered in with warm smiles, a friendly hello, and ladies who could not be more excited to have a visitor.

Walking inside, it feels like being in your grandmother's home with warm smells coming from the kitchen, lots of laughter, and plenty of stories to share. In the middle of it all is Nancy. While living in the Samuels Home, Nancy has created a community for herself with her housemates becoming dear friends as she builds a robust social life.

Nancy is like many of the persons served at JARC, an older adult whose quality of life has improved because of the services JARC provides. After spending most of her life with her parents, Nancy moved into independent living with JARC for three years before deciding to move into the Samuels Home. In the two years Nancy has lived with her Samuels Home housemates, they have become good friends who enjoy doing many activities together.



Nancy loves learning new skills especially when it comes to the kitchen. Recently, she has taken part in several virtual JARC cooking workshops. So far, she has learned how to make traditional kosher dill pickles, jams, no-bake cheesecakes, challahs and so many other things. And one of Nancy's favorites has been fresh jam for her morning waffles. According to Samuels Home Manager Celeste, Nancy and her housemates are happy

to help staff prepare meals. That's Nancy - always wanting to lend a helping hand, and always wanting to stay busy.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, Nancy has enjoyed many JARC activities from the home. Nancy often offers the Samuels Home to host hybrid activities. Nancy also enjoys many things, such as bowling, visits to the cider mill, doing arts and crafts and word searches. She cannot wait to wave to her friends at other homes during the holiday celebrations when they are safe to resume. She loves phone calls with her family and visits with them whenever she can. She is a friend to anyone who will sit down and talk with her.

Nancy's kindness towards others and openheartedness embodies what it means to be a part of the JARC community.

Do you want to support Nancy and others in JARC's care?
Visit jarc.org/give or contact us at 248.940.2617 or jennykabert@jarc.org.

Transforming Lives One Ingredient at a Time

For some people, taking care of others is a way of life. Melissa Lukas, manager of the Nusbaum Home since June 2021, has more than ten years of experience working with adults with developmental disabilities.

Melissa's favorite thing about direct care work is spending time with persons served.

"They become a very special part of you. You get a close bond with each and every person. I make sure they have everything they need and try to get them out and about as much as possible."

When she's not working Melissa loves to cook, bake, travel and spend time in the sun. She brings these hobbies into the Nusbaum home as much as she can and even established a new tradition of baking with the ladies every weekend. Everyone gets a seat around the kitchen island and each person is responsible for adding an ingredient into the bowl. The sweet result is enjoyed by everyone, and the ladies look forward to this activity every week.

The Nusbaum home also participates in virtual baking classes. JARC began this online series early in the pandemic, as it helped to create a sense of togetherness, despite the State of Michigan's Shelter in Place mandate. The classes were so popular that JARC continued them once the mandate was lifted. This summer, Melissa guided the women as they made cookie bars, jam, and ice cream in a bag. The Nusbaum ladies they look forward to future baking sessions with Melissa and online.

Melissa's joy in her work depends upon how the ladies at the home are doing. "When they're happy, I'm happy. Seeing their smiles makes all of my problems go away."



JARC is always looking for compassionate staff like Melissa to join the team. If you, or someone you know, is interested in a career like Melissa's, please contact Jennifer at jennifergoldstein@jarc.org or 248.940.2612.



You Get What You Give – Giving Time and Receiving Friendship

While absence makes the heart grow fonder, sometimes presence can do the same.

Deede and Miles Auster have not only been married for 56 years, but their relationship has also been prevalent in every area of their lives. Before they retired, Miles was a beloved internist and Deede managed his doctor's office. Even now, they have devoted their retirement to giving back to the community together and both have been volunteers for JARC during the last 12 years.

Since getting involved with JARC over a decade ago their volunteer experiences have varied widely. Miles enjoys interacting with persons served. The Rosen Enrichment Program (formerly known as RRR) is a space where persons served who had retired or were not attending day programs could come together to do activities during the day. Being there with persons served was Miles's favorite volunteer activity, as it allowed him to truly connect with so many.

"Volunteering with JARC allowed me to be with a unique group. I'm fortunate to have met and grown to know a lot of very good people and I truly believe that I've taken a lot more away than I've given them," Miles reflected.

When the pandemic began, many of our volunteer programs shifted and this program was temporarily shut down. But that didn't stop the power couple from finding ways to help.

At the height of COVID-19, JARC did everything possible to keep direct care staff away from busy places, such as grocery stores, and instead provided catered kosher meals to each home. This undertaking required many volunteers to pick up the meals from the caterer and deliver them to the homes. Miles and Deede were happy to help and made deliveries three or four times each week.

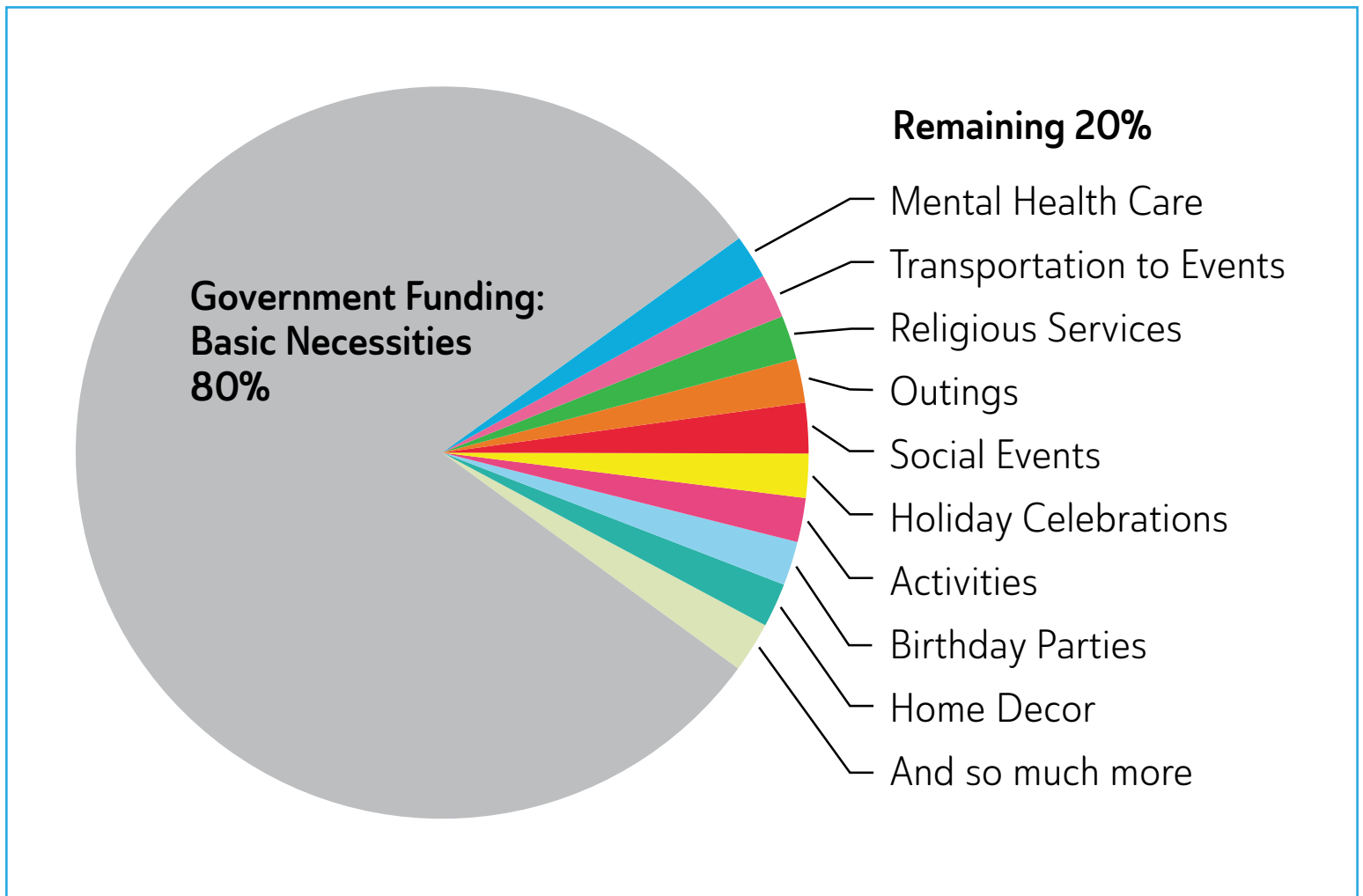
When persons served needed to shelter-in-place rather than go to work or day programs, it was especially difficult for some. Miles volunteered to connect with one person on a weekly basis. It was only with Miles' weekly calls that the person served felt like part of the community, while he waited for his vaccination and opportunity to return to work. This relationship has continued to grow and has been so meaningful for them both.

Then, when vaccinations finally became available and JARC began hosting vaccination clinics, both Auster's jumped in to help. Each played an important role- Deede at the check in desk reviewing identification documents, and Miles as JARC's medical personnel in the post-vaccination room, a role that was required by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).



The Auster's presence in the lives of JARC persons served has been invaluable to helping them live their best lives, particularly during the pandemic. All volunteers are essential to JARC's mission of enriching the lives of people with disabilities. If you are looking for a great way to make a connection, please contact Jessica at jessicatierney@jarc.org or 248.940.2607.

No one wants to live 80% of a life. Thank you for ensuring that those we serve don't need to.



80% of JARC's funding comes from government sources and covers the basics such as food, shelter, transportation to work or day programs, and minimal staff. JARC depends on generous community members to provide everything else that make life fun and exciting.

To support JARC programs, please visit jarc.org/give or call us at 248.940.2617.

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